

Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates Hearing – May 2010

Finance and Deregulation Portfolio

Outcome General, Program General

Topic: Attendance at Community Cabinet Meetings

Question reference number: F89

Type of Question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 9 July 2010

Number of Pages: 2

Senator Barnett asked:

- a) What was the cost of Minister's travel and expenses for the Community Cabinet meetings held since additional estimates?
- b) How many Ministerial Staff and Departmental officers travelled with the Minister for the Community Cabinet meeting?
- c) What was the total cost of this travel?
- d) What was the total cost to the Department and the Minister's office?

Answer:

The following information is provided in relation to the former Minister for Finance and Deregulation, the Hon Lindsay Tanner, only. Information in relation to the former Special Minister of State is being provided by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in response to a similar question asked of them by Senator Barnett.

- a) Four Community Cabinet Meetings have been held since the Additional Estimates Hearings on 9 February 2010. The former Minister for Finance and Deregulation (Finance) attended three of those meetings. The cost of travel and expenses was \$3,032.46.

Note 1. Without consultation with the travellers, the information above relies on an assumption that all travel to and from relevant locations immediately before and after the relevant Cabinet meetings, was for the purposes of attending the Cabinet meetings.

Note 2. The above figures include airfares and Travelling Allowance (including Motor Vehicle Allowance) claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge), or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence).

Note 3. The information above may be incomplete as Senators, Members and their employees have up to 60 days to submit Travelling Allowance claims.

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- b) Number of Ministerial staff who travelled with the former Finance Minister to Community Cabinet meetings:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Ballarat VIC | 0 |
| Epping NSW | 1 |
| Burnie TAS | 1 |

Note 1: No Finance officials travelled to the Community Cabinet Meetings.

- c) The total cost of travel and expenses for Ministerial staffers who attended Community Cabinet Meetings since the Additional Estimates Hearings on 9 February 2010 was \$3,378.88

Note 1. Without consultation with the travellers, the information above relies on an assumption that all travel to and from relevant locations immediately before and after the relevant Cabinet meetings, was for the purposes of attending the Cabinet meetings.

Note 2. The above figures include airfares and Travelling Allowance (including Motor Vehicle Allowance) claims. They do not include travel by taxis (due to the difficulties determining exact destinations using the electronic information as provided by Cabcharge), or travel on Special Purpose Aircraft (which is administered by the Department of Defence).

- d) The total cost of travel and expenses for the former Finance Minister and Ministerial staffers was \$6,411.34.

Note 1: No Finance officials travelled to the Community Cabinet Meetings.